

Remarks

Further to the Amendment filed January 7, 2003, and the Supplemental Amendment filed January 30, 2003, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated October 7, 2002, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 12 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 5, 9 and 10 have been amended and Claim 12 has been added herein.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9 and 10 have been further amended to clarify their scope. In a telephone conversation with the Examiner on March 27, 2003, it was agreed to amend independent Claim 1 in the manner set forth above to further clarify the meaning of "said distal discharging roller being of higher precision than said proximal discharging roller." The amendments herein further clarify structural differences between the proximal and distal discharging rollers. In addition, Claim 12 has been added to include a method claim based on independent Claim 1 prior to amendment. At least the claimed step of forming a distal discharging roller in a process of higher precision than that of a process for forming a proximal discharging roller, and positioning the distal discharging roller downstream of the proximal discharging roller is not believed to be disclosed or suggested in the citations of record.

Thus, Claims 1-12 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

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Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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